



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes of February 6, 2008

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Open Space Committee

**Meeting Date:** February 6, 2008

**Present:** Ann LeRoy  
David White  
Joey Glushko  
Elizabeth Karpati  
Lisa Decker (note taker)

**Special Guest:** Brian Rehrig, Arlington Land Trust

#### General

- January 9 meeting minutes were approved as unanimously amended.
- David distributed copies of the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows 2007 Annual Report to all present.
- Next OSC Meeting will be March 5.

#### Open Space Plan Update

- Ann updated Brian with the status of the Open Space Plan. Ralph has re-submitted the plan to the state after he made the revisions we discussed at the last meeting. We have not heard any more comments from the state since then. Ann reviewed the list of priorities from the plan. The first priority we discussed was Land Acquisition.

#### Land Acquisition Discussion with Brian

- The OSC discussed the idea of collecting inventory and data of existing private property parcels. The idea is to contact owners of property that may be suitable for conservation land. We decided that ideally we would target properties that are adjacent to wetlands or environmentally sensitive areas and try to discuss the potential of converting the land into conservation land. Joey has some data from about 8 years ago and the Land Trust has begun a survey of private lots also. In the past, letters had been sent to property owners with no response. The town had been reluctant to collect this data and have it become public information. The fear was that developers would use the information. Brian likes the idea of rejuvenating the plan.

Joey will look for the inventory. We discussed how we would follow through once the parcels were selected. Follow through will be difficult. We discussed the potential impact on property values.

#### Symmes Conservation Restriction Update and Discussion

- Brian reported there was no 'Friends' group established yet for Symmes. He anticipates that this will happen after the housing is occupied, when the old neighbors and new neighbors begin to work together. The woods are protected by a temporary conservation restriction. The Land Trust is in the process of sending out an RFP requesting a Management Plan. The developer is obligated to pay for both an Inventory and the Management Plan.

#### Great Meadows Permanent Protection Discussion

- David reported that one option for protecting Great Meadows would be for Arlington to classify it as Conservation Land. Brian thought it would be great to discuss the options for the property with Lexington and try to determine how to get Lexington to contribute. They may need to see proof of potential threat. Would Arlington ask Lexington to buy the land? Joey suggested the idea of bringing the 2 communities together by developing a nature center together. David commented that the cost for staffing maintaining a nature center may be prohibitive. Brian suggested a Memorial Grove on the upland.

#### **Elizabeth Island Update**

- Brian reported that the Land Trust has made an offer to the owner at the appraised value. Her attorney has recommended that she accept the offer, but they have not heard anything yet.

#### **Mugar**

- The new FEMA maps may change the status of the site. Clarissa Rowe is advocating reviving discussion about options for the site. The idea is to pursue state funding for both the Mugar site and the Belmont uplands at the same time as they are linked.

#### **Cemetery Update**

- David reported that the Conservation Commission is in the process of preparing an RFP for the Cemetery Master Plan.

#### **Management Plan Review and Update**

- Elizabeth raised the issue of updating the existing Management plans. After discussion and review of last meeting, we decided that we have other more pressing priorities right now and will undertake the Management plan updates in the fall.